

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) 25X1

TOPIC Military Information from Letzling Heath

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EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 14 to 17 August 1951

25X1 DATE OBTAINED _____

DATE PREPARED 10 September 1951

REFERENCES _____

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. The hutment about 400 meters southeast of Born (M 53/Y 52), on the Born-Haldensleben road, was occupied by an undetermined number of troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Local residents stated that more troops were quartered in camps which extended as far as Neuenhofe (M 53/Y 51). Additional barracks buildings were under construction near kilometer mark 4.5 in Camp Born.
2. An unusually large number of vehicles were seen moving from kilometer mark 6 to the camp over an unpaved road through the woods on 14 and 15 August.

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3.

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4.

25X1 [redacted] the civilian population of Salchau had been evacuated and Salchau was being completely destroyed by Soviet shelling. When proceeding southward through the woods, source was temporarily taken into custody. He observed that the road through the woods leads to a north-south concrete highway about 20 meters wide. About 40 bunkers of various design were located on the other side of this highway about 2 km north of Hillersleben (M 53/Y 51). Source was briefly interrogated in one of these bunkers and subsequently brought to the barracks installation in Hillersleben.

25X1 Thirty-six tanks with T-34 chassis [redacted] were seen in a clearing near the interrogation bunker. Vehicles seen in the barracks installation in Hillersleben included trucks [redacted] tank truck [redacted]

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[redacted] and jeep [redacted] Trucks [redacted] and sedan [redacted] were [redacted] in the streets of Hillersleben. (2)

5. A Soviet senior lieutenant, who was about to mount a motorcycle in Hillersleben in the afternoon of 17 August, dropped a notebook. Source obtained several pages which bore the address of a soldier [redacted] notes on the daily routine, specifying reveille at 5 a.m., breakfast at from 6:15 to 7 a.m., dinner at from 1 to 2 p.m. and supper at from 7:30 to 8 p.m.; notes on train connections between Koethen and Magdeburg; and notes of the price of quartermaster articles, stating

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that a shelter half for junior officers costs 48.70 eastmarks, a shelter half for senior officers 66.50 eastmarks, a uniform overcoat 120 eastmarks, a uniform coat 100 eastmarks, a pair of riding boots 50 eastmarks, a pair of breeches 45 eastmarks, and a uniform blouse 40 eastmarks. (3)

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6. Three construction staffs located in Haldensleben, Colbitz and Dolle were in charge of the construction work in the Letzling Heath area. The staffs were hiring only carpenters and iron workers at the time of observation. (4)

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Comments.

(1) The camp referred to by source is subdivided into two hutments located in the woods southeast of Born and south of the line from Huetten to the Planken forestry office. The boundary line between the two camps is apparently hard to define because of the construction of additional wooden buildings. The vehicles observed in this area are primarily assigned to components of the 7th Gds Tank Div and the 19th Gds Mecz Div, while individual vehicles belong to the 14th Gds Mecz Div, the 9th Gds Tank Div, the 199th Light Arty Brig, the Third Shock Army and the 136th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army.

(2) The concrete highway with bunkers is the artillery range extending between Hillersleben and Salchau. [REDACTED] The vehicles which, according to the present report, were seen at the barracks installation and in the streets of Hillersleben, belong primarily to components of the 19th Gds Mecz Div and the 7th and 10th Gds Tank Divs, while individual vehicles belong to the 11th Gds Tank Div, the SGC and the 136th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt.

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(4) The employment of the three construction staffs is reported for the first time. It is believed to be only one staff with several construction officers which were or are probably engaged in the construction of the Hillersleben-Salchau artillery range, the dismantling of the Gardelegen-Letzlingen railroad line and the improvement of troop camps at Letzling Heath. [REDACTED]

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